



Prep Newsletter



Welcome to our first term of the year and what an exciting year we have planned!

Firstly, we must mention how pleased we are with the way your children have settled into the routine of school. The days are long and most are coping remarkably well. However, as expected, some children are still a bit tired by the end of the day. Please make sure your child is getting plenty of sleep - bed by 7.30pm is a great guide.

Thank you to our parents who have refrained from peeking and waving through classroom windows. The children are easily distracted at this stage of the year and we aim to establish daily routines that will assist them to have a smooth start and end to each day.

ASSEMBLY

Is every second Friday, located in the stadium. If you wish to attend, we ask parents to please enter through the back door.

MORNING ROUTINE

Teachers are in their classrooms by 8.45am every morning if parents wish to talk.

SPECIALIST REMINDERS

Tuesday - Library
please bring library bag.

Thursday - PE
Please wear runners and sports uniform.

Compass

Please check regularly for notices and emails from teachers. This is our main source of communication.

School bell times

9am: School starts
11.30 - 12noon:
Recess
1.40 - 1.50pm:
Lunch eating time
1.50 - 2.40 pm
Lunch play
3.30pm: Dismissal

Brain Food

Children are given the opportunity to eat Brain Food during the morning session. Brain Food is any fresh fruit or vegetables. Yoghurt and muesli bars are considered snack foods not brain food.

Hats

Children are required to wear hats everyday at lunch and recess, during terms 1 and 4.

Daily Routines

A friendly reminder about dropping off your child in the morning and leaving promptly. Our day starts at 9.00am and we would like our students to begin their school day by independently entering the classroom and starting their morning routines.

If your child is going home with another parent, family member or going to after school care, please make sure he/she knows about this arrangement and also let the class teacher know - this could be through email or a brief chat in the morning.

Early dismissal or late arrival

Please remember that if you arrive late or need to pick your child up early, you must sign them in or out at the Office, before going to the classroom.

Uniforms

Please be vigilant in naming ALL of your child's uniform. The polar fleeces are difficult to name, so may we suggest stitching a name tag on them, in a prominent position, as they are not a cheap item of clothing.

Take home books

Home reading has started and we would like you to take the time to read the information provided on Compass called 'Shared Reading in Prep'. This is an ideal time for you to develop an effective and ongoing routine for home reading. The books we are sending home are for you to read to your child to enhance their love and enjoyment for reading. Once the English Online Assessment is finalised we will begin to send home books for them to read to you. We ask that for each book you read you fill in your child's reading log book. Please try and read with them each week night.

Dates to remember

- Cricket Roadshow - Thursday 8th March
- Labour Day - Monday 12th March
- Curriculum Day- Tuesday 13th March
- Parent night: The Resilience Project - Monday 19th March at 7.00pm
- Grandparents' Day - Wednesday 28th March
- Last day of term 1 - Thursday 29th March, 1.30pm dismissal

Blue Satchels

All notices and home reading items go home in the blue satchel. It will be sent home each day so please check it daily. After emptying and sharing the contents, have your **child pack their satchel** back in their school bag ready for the following day. It is important that you please let your child know if you put a notice into their satchel, so they can pass it onto their teacher.



Head Lice

Please check your child's hair regularly as, unfortunately, Head Lice is always a possibility. If your child has long hair it is best to keep it tied back.

Canteen

The canteen is open everyday for children to order lunch orders / purchase snacks and drinks during recess and lunch times. We strongly recommend completing orders online where possible, to avoid confusion with money in the playground.

Buddies

To build relationships and develop new social skills we will be running the 'Better Buddies' program. Your child has been paired with a year 5 student(s)

The Resilience Project

Croydon Hills Primary School is an accredited partner of 'The Resilience Project'.

As teachers we have had Professional Development on teaching positive mental health strategies. This program is across all levels at CHPS. We focus on Gratitude, Emotional Literacy, Empathy and Mindfulness.

In Prep, we do a weekly lesson on 'The Resilience Project'.

Teacher contacts

Please use these as a means of contact regarding your child if you are not able to come in and see us. We will endeavour to reply to your emails ASAP, however we can not guarantee a reply on the same day you send it. A note on compass or email is mandatory if your child is absent from school.

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gray.ashley.n@edumail.vic.gov.au

CHAPS

Croydon Hills Association of Parents

This is a really great way to be involved in our school and to be part of the exciting things that happen around Croydon Hills P.S.

If you are interested in joining this group please contact the office and they will give you all the information you will need to become a member.

Free dress birthdays

On your child's birthday (or the next day if on the weekend) we celebrate their special day by providing them with the option to wear 'out of uniform clothes'.

Student Awards

Student awards will be given out at Friday assemblies to nominated students. If your child is receiving an award, teachers will notify you via Compass on the Wednesday of that week.

Reading Eggs

Very soon your child will receive login details to access 'Reading Eggs'. This web based computer program will assist your child with literacy learning at their stage of development and complement class programs. If you have any issues with logging in, please chat to the class teacher.

P.E

Welcome to Physical Education in the Prep area. It has already been an exciting start with students being taught how to play on their Prep playground safely. They have been taught how to drop off the Monkey bar safely and make sure they land in what's called a "Motorbike Landing Position". This way, students won't overbalance and land on a wrist and cause damage. They have also been told not to slide down the slide in any other way apart from on their bottom. I would like to see all girls in their red school shirt and shorts /skorts and have runners on their feet every Thursday which is the Prep PE day. Dresses and school shoes can be dangerous when doing certain activities, as well as being restrictive, so please endeavour to remember to dress your child appropriately. All children will also need a water bottle; we do talk about dehydration. We will be mainly focusing on the Fundamental Motor Skills of throwing and catching for Term 1. I look forward to having some fun with our new recruits.

Noreen McMenaman

Art

Art for the Preps will be each Monday. Art will be in the Pavilion (next to the Stadium) with Libby Browning. We are lucky to have such a beautiful learning space. Our early activities will introduce ideas of line, shape and colour. Watch out for some masterpieces in the next few weeks! Each student needs a clearly named smock, please.

Libby Browning



Specialists Overview

Science

This term in Science, the Prep students will be studying a biology unit called "Growing well". Throughout this unit, the students will be learning about how plants and animals grow and the various needs necessary for survival. During this unit, the Prep students will be growing plants and tracking the progress of their seedlings, changing variables to acknowledge the importance of certain factors. Throughout the year, the students will cover the four areas of Science: Biology, Chemistry, Physical Science and Earth and Space Sciences. If you would like to know which topics are being covered, the posters are displayed on the outside window of the Science room.

Ben Burch

Music

Welcome to an exciting term of Music! Students will engage in 'Move to Music' activities which helps our bodies to warm up and explore different dance and movement sequences. We will cover elements of keeping a steady beat, dynamics (loud/soft), tempo (fast/slow) and pitch (high/low) using different body parts, our beautiful singing voices and instrumental play as well as lots of rhymes and a dinosaur theme!

Laura Yorke